

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 (original): A bed or mattress including a plurality of pocketed springs and a base to which said springs or some at least of said springs are directly or indirectly secured, said base being movable in the axial direction of said springs so as to vary the compression of said springs or some at least of said springs, an upper surface of said bed or mattress remaining in the same horizontal plane or substantially the same horizontal plane regardless of the degree of compression of said springs or some at least of said springs and the position of said base.

2 (original): A bed or mattress according to Claim 1, wherein said pocketed springs are single pocketed springs, double pocketed springs, pocketed springs arranged in end-to-end and co-axial relationship, or a combination thereof.

3 (currently amended): A bed or mattress according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein said pocketed springs are arranged in rows each surrounded or partially surrounded by fabric or other suitable material.

4 (currently amended): A bed or mattress according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein two rows, three rows or more are each surrounded by a single piece of fabric or other suitable material.

5 (original): A bed or mattress according to Claim 3, wherein the rows of springs or some of the rows of springs are secured directly to said base.

6 (original): A bed or mattress according to Claim 3, wherein adjacent rows of springs or groups of rows of springs are adhesively secured together and a bar or other means is located between said rows or groups of rows of springs.

7 (currently amended): A bed or mattress according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein said base is formed of a plurality of sections movable independently of one another so that the compression of the springs may be varied in selected areas or in a selected area of said bed or mattress.

8 (currently amended): A bed or mattress according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein said base is formed as a single structure.

9 (currently amended): A bed or mattress according to Claim 7 ~~or Claim 8~~, wherein said base or a part or parts of said base is/are moved in the axial direction of the springs by one or more air bags, screw motors, electric motors, or by means of jack handle(s) or by any other suitable means.

10 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 2, wherein said pocketed springs are arranged in rows each surrounded or partially surrounded by fabric or other suitable material.

11 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 10, wherein the rows of springs or some of the rows of springs are secured directly to said base.

12 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 10, wherein adjacent rows of springs or groups of rows of springs are adhesively secured together and a bar or other means is located between said rows or groups of rows of springs.

13 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 2, wherein said base is formed of a plurality of sections movable independently of one another so that the compression of the springs may be varied in selected areas or in a selected area of said bed or mattress.

14 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 5, wherein said base is formed of a plurality of sections movable independently of one another so that the compression of the springs may be varied in selected areas or in a selected area of said bed or mattress.

15 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 6, wherein said base is formed of a plurality of sections movable independently of one another so that the compression of the springs may be varied in selected areas or in a selected area of said bed or mattress.

16 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 2, wherein said base is formed as a single structure.

17 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 5, wherein said base is formed as a single structure.

18 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 8, wherein said base or a part or parts of said base is/are moved in the axial direction of the springs by one or more air bags, screw motors, electric motors, or by means of jack handle(s) or by any other suitable means.

19 (new): A bed or mattress according to Claim 17, wherein said base or a part or parts of said base is/are moved in the axial direction of the springs by one or more air bags, screw motors, electric motors, or by means of jack handle(s) or by any other suitable means.